



U.S. EPA Public Notice

Murphy Oil Spill Progress Report

March 17, 2006



By March 30, 2006, Murphy Oil will have finished work at most of the properties where owners have granted Murphy access for sampling and cleanup activities. Murphy will not be stopping work, but its activities will be greatly reduced unless more property owners agree to grant access for sampling only or sampling and cleanup.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) continue to oversee the actions conducted by Murphy and its contractors in the residential area impacted by oil spilled from a crude oil storage tank on its refinery in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

Clean up in the residential area near the damaged oil tank includes a series of investigative and response actions by Murphy. These include:

- 1) Obtaining voluntary access from private property owners.
- 2) Collection of environmental samples for analysis. EPA collects 10% of the samples for independent analysis to confirm test results.
- 3) High-pressure cleaning of home exteriors and collection of rinsate water for disposal.
- 4) High-pressure cleaning of home interior contents and collection of rinsate water for disposal after private homeowner guts interior.
- 5) Inspection, testing and clearance for placement of FEMA trailers on properties.
- 6) Removal of oil contaminated soils from yards.
- 7) Restoration of yards with new soils.

To date, property owners have given access to Murphy to conduct sampling of their private properties for over 4,200 addresses. This includes properties both inside and outside of the known oil spill footprint. Murphy has cleaned the exterior of over 1,200 of these homes in accordance with federal and state protocols. Murphy is completing interior

washing of those properties which had oil in them and that have had their interiors removed. EPA and LDEQ continue to clear addresses in the impacted area for FEMA for placement of trailers. Removal of oil-contaminated soil also continues.

It is important that landowners in the potentially impacted oil spill areas provide written property access permission to Murphy to ensure the oil spill sampling and cleanup process continues. This access is also necessary for the placement of FEMA trailers and the continued monitoring of Murphy's work by EPA and LDEQ. There are several methods that can be used to give Murphy written access to sample and/or clean the impacted properties as well as request the placement of a FEMA trailer.

If the landowner is only interested in securing a FEMA temporary housing trailer, the owner should fill out a blank Right of Entry (ROE) form at the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) on Judge Perez Road in Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish. The ROE will allow property owners to give Murphy the access to sample, and if necessary to clean the exterior of the property, yet the property owner can still remain in the class action lawsuit. Property owners who wish to have a trailer are directed to the DRC where they can sign the ROE with a FEMA trailer representative present. FEMA will then send the legal form to Murphy with a copy to EPA, and Murphy will then place the address into its normal process for scheduling sampling and cleaning activities. The EPA and the LDEQ will follow the current inspection process to clear addresses for trailers. Because of the time requirements for the sampling, analysis of data, cleaning activities and then the FEMA trailer placement process, it may take at least two months before a FEMA trailer can be placed on a property.

To check out several other options permitted by the Court, please go to the **U.S. District Court, Eastern Division of Louisiana** web page at www.laed.uscourts.gov. Look at the bottom of the page and click on the Murphy Oil Class Action Litigation.

Homeowners, who have provided voluntary written access to Murphy, should contact EPA at 512-426-6400 or 1-800-533-3508 for more information.